

2 March 1959

Re East Germany - Emigration

1. I have had a fruitful discussion largely on the element of GDR Planning and emigration with

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2. He says under the 5-year plan there have been indications in heavy equipment that although quality and design have not been up to Western Standards, this equipment is suitable for under-developed countries. Orders rushed for planning purposes inclined to be faulty. Basic vulnerability in GDR lies in:

1. Insufficient raw materials.
2. Insufficient orders from abroad.

3. He also attributes to GDR's faulty planning the question of emigration to West Germany, a GDR responsibility. Reasons for emigration:

- a. GDR violation of private and public life standards of citizens.
- b. GDR pressure on citizens to decide between "black and white".

Professions

- a. If better off economically would not think of leaving GDR. Disadvantage in GDR to be the son of a professional man.

Small business men and farmers

- a. Little economic hope for future, - no amenities.
- b. Future not permanent enough.

Under these circumstances East Germans think (referring to the West Germany) "Why not try it over there"?

\* East Germany desk here should have figures on emigration and re-emigration.

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